any company (irrespective of the commodity it manufactures) preferring an appeal is required to deposit with the adjudicating authority duty demanded and/or any penalty levied pending appeal. Howver, the appellate authrities also have the discretion to waive the condition of pre-deposit in part or full subject to such conditions as the appeallate authority may think fit so as to safeguard the interest of revenue.

Further, various measure have been tkaen to expedite finalisation of the cases at the stage of adjudication and appeal before the Tribunal and Courts. These include appointment of common adjudicators to exclusively deal with some of the cases whcih are complex, appointment of senior counsels of represent the Department and amendment to the Central Excises & Salt Act 1944 to provide for interest to be charged on delayed payment of duty.

News-Item Regarding India in Debt Trap

3560. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item in the Hindustrn Times dated 16th August, 1996, regarding India in debt trap by the end of this deecade;

(b) if so, whether Government will have to borrow more and more to meet its interest obligations;

(c) whether Government have examined the contents of the book written by Secretary of Planning Commission and former Secretary of Governemt of India on India's Economic Policy for the 21st Century;

(d) if so, steps taken by Government to avoid falling in debt trap; and

(e) the total interest Government will have to pay for earlier borrowings uptill now?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBRAM): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government keeps the Debt position under constant reivew and is seized of the relevant issues including those reported to have been mentioned in the back. Government would endeavour to restrict the fiscal deficit additional borrowings) in 1996-97 (BE) to 5% of GDP. Governemnt is also committed to reduce it furhter so as to reduce the debt burden.

(e) The total interest payments in 1996-97 (BE) are estimated at Rs. 60000 crore.

Countersign for non-listed Medicines in Ayurvedic Dispensaries

3561. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
SHRI MOHINDRA SINGH KALYAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued orders to the effect that the non-listed medicines in CGHS Ayurvedic dispansaries will be purchased or issued only after the Countersign by Adviser (Ayurveda & Siddha)/Deputy Adviser (Ayurveda)/Medical Superintendent of CGHS Ayurvedic Hospital;

(b) whether this type of formality is not necessary in the case of listed medicines;

(c) whether Government propose to order for countersign in the case of both type of medicines or alternatively adopt the similar type of process;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if so, by when these instructions/orders will be issued to the CGHS Ayurvedic dispensaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Yes Sir. These

orders have been issued to regulate the lolcal purchase of non-listed medicines.

(b) This formally is not required for listed medicines.

(c) to (e) As present there is no such proposal for listed medicines as these are on the approved formulary of CGHS.

Demand for Financial Autonomy and Greater Share to States

3562. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is growing demand for grant of financial autnomy, economic freedom and greater share for States of the Indian Union; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Centre-State financial relationship is governed by the Constitution of India. The States have a separate Consolidated Fund, Contigency Fund and a Public Account of their own. Subject to various provisions of the Constitution, States are financially autonomous and are accountable to their respective State Legislatures.

However, the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations relating to the legislative, administrative and financial matters, etc. are being considered by the Sub-Committee appointed by the Inter-State Council. The Sub-Committee has so far considered 190 out of 247 recommendations. The remaining recommendations are yet to be finalised by the Sub-Committee. After consideration by the Sub-Committee, these recommendations will be placed before the Inter-State Council. The views of the Inter-State Council, thereafter will be submitted to the Government for its consideration and decision.

Referring 10th Finance Commission recommendations to committee

3563. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 10th Finance Commission recommendations regarding the pooling of all Central taxes for sharing with States have been referred to a Committee;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the Committee and its composition; and

(c) the time by when the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) No Committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Finance for considering the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission regarding the pooling of all Central taxes for sharing with the States. In the Budget speech it was announced that a discussion paper would be circulated to Hon'ble Members on the 10th Finance Commission's recommendation to form a single divisible pool of taxes to be shared between the Centre and the States.

Status of a full fledged T.V. Centre for Silchar

3564. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Silchar is only a relay T.V. centre and not a full fledged centre;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that news in local language is not broadcast from the Silchar T.V. centre; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) The existing Doordarshan Kendra at Silchar in Assam is a full fledged Kendra, comprising of a High Power (10KW) T.V.